

PART VI

S O C I A L

SECTION 1

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

CONTENTS

	Paragraph
Vital Statistics	1
Preventive Medicine	5
Medical Services	9
Nursing Affairs	15
Veterinary Affairs	18
Pharmaceutical Affairs	20
Narcotics Section	25
Laboratories	33
Public Assistance	36
Women's Bureau	46
Welfare Supply	49

VITAL STATISTICS

1. The Vital Statistics Section of the Department of Public Health and Welfare has mapped plans to tabulate data on South Korea's births, deaths, marriages and divorces to assist in lowering the mortality rate. Tabulations compiled on a monthly basis will include:

- a. Summary of births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages and divorces.
 - b. Number of births and stillbirths, listed according to the following factors:
 - (1) By pregnancy months.
 - (2) By number and kind of attendants (nurse, midwife, etc.)
 - (3) By mother's age.
 - (4) By order of birth.
 - c. Number of stillbirths by cause and locality.
 - d. Number of deaths by cause and age.
 - e. Number of infant deaths by months of life and cause.
2. On an annual basis, the Vital Statistics Section will tabulate:
- a. Number of deaths by age, marital status, cause and occupation.
 - b. Number of births by occupation of parent.
 - c. Number of marriages by ages.
 - d. Number of divorces by ages.

3. To facilitate reporting, certificates to be returned to the section have been greatly simplified.

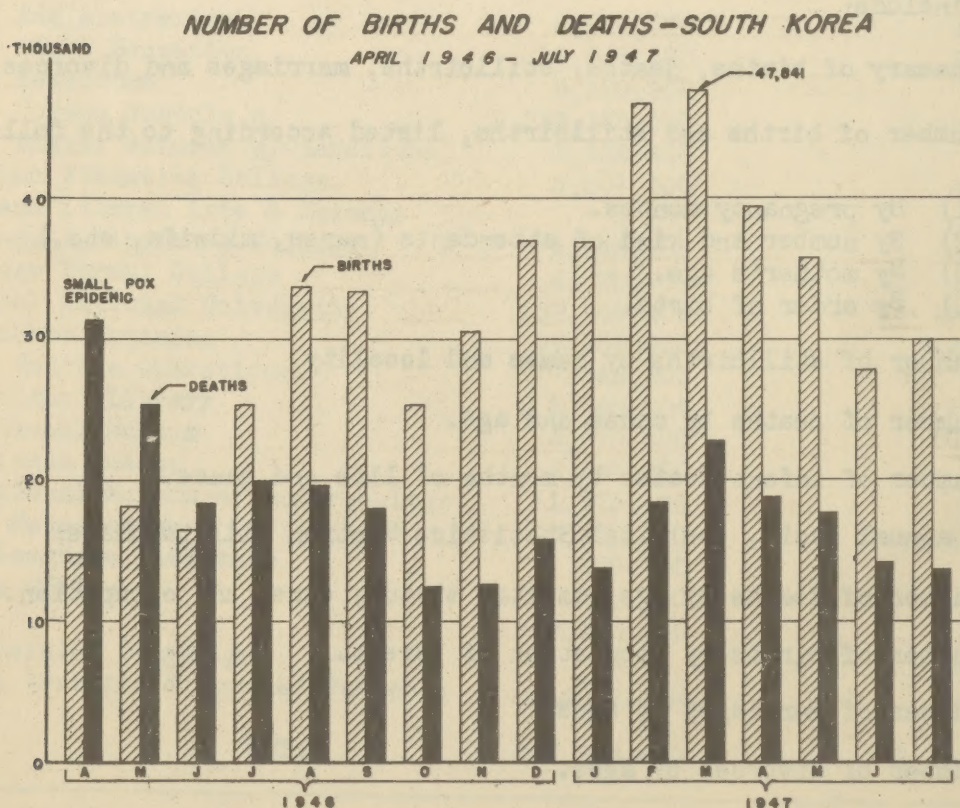
4. Tabulation has been completed on the number of deaths by age groups in South Korea from April through December 1946. The figures, as shown in table 1, indicate a high mortality rate among infants in South Korea, chiefly because of such diseases as pneumonia, measles, meningitis, influenza and diarrhea. Neither crude nor specific rates of births or deaths have been computed because of the uncertainty in population figures. The chart provides a comparison of births and deaths from April 1946 through July 1947. The decrease in the number of deaths is attributed chiefly to the work being done by the Department of Public Health and Welfare in prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.

Table 1. Mortality by Age Groups,
South Korea, April - December 1946

Age group	Deaths	Age group	Deaths
Under 5 years	62,198	55-59 years	9,635
5-9 years	9,636	60-64 years	8,144
10-14 years	3,992	65-69 years	8,724
15-19 years	4,681	70-74 years	7,527
20-24 years	6,021	75-79 years	6,365
25-29 years	5,379	80-84 years	3,571
30-34 years	5,949	85-89 years	1,644
35-39 years	6,671	90-94 years	469
40-44 years	6,804	95-99 years	123
45-49 years	7,876	Over 100 years	53
50-54 years	7,843		
		Total	173,305

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare.

FIGURE 1:



SOURCE: DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

5. Diphtheria, typhus and typhoid were practically the only major communicable diseases reported in South Korea during January (table 2). Most diseases were less prevalent during the month than they were during the same periods of the previous three years. Typhus and diphtheria however, showed no decrease (table 3). The highest incidence of both typhus and typhoid was in Kyongsang-pukto. Although 80 cases of typhus were reported from one gun in Kyongsang-pukto, investigation showed many of the cases were diseases other than typhus. Most of the cases of typhus have been proved to be of the epidemic strain, or louse-borne form. Thorough control measures, including immunization and DDT dusting, were carried out.

Table 2. Communicable Diseases, South Korea
January 1948

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Incidence</u>
Encephalitis	3
Plague	0
Relapsing fever	18
Cholera	0
Epidemic meningitis	5
Malaria	12
Diphtheria	138
Smallpox	13
Typhus	201
Typhoid	267
Paratyphoid	7
Bacillary dysentery	14

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare.

Table 3. Comparison of Incidence of Winter Diseases,
South Korea, January 1945-48

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Year</u>			
	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
Typhus	278	742	200	201
Typhoid	485	647	454	267
Diphtheria	241	42	130	138

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare.

6. Plans have been made to examine all licensed prostitutes in the prostitution area of Seoul before their liberation from that area. Treatment of all prostitutes found to be infected with venereal disease will be given at the National Venereal Disease Clinic in Seoul on an in-patient basis. This program is being conducted throughout South Korea.

Chongju Public Health Center

7. A new provincial health center was opened on 20 January at Chongju, in Chungchong-pukto. Although several health centers are operating in South Korea under the supervision of the National Department of Public Health and Welfare, this is the first to be established by a province on its own initiative, and wholly with provincial funds. The center is designed for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases among the indigent. Also in the center are pre-natal and post-natal clinics. The post-natal clinic will handle the distribution of milk and prescribing of nutritious diets for infants. Skin testing for tuberculosis, with follow-up X-rays in indicated cases, is being done in cooperation with the provincial hospital. The staff and facilities of this health center also will be used in public health educational projects.

8. The center, primarily diagnostic, contains only four beds, and only emergency cases will remain there. The staff consists of a doctor, nurse and midwife who work full time, and several doctors who work on a part-time basis. The center is fairly well equipped, and handled five to 10 patients a day in January, with the number steadily increasing as knowledge of the center became more widespread. In addition, the baby clinic examined 80 babies during the last week of the month.

MEDICAL SERVICES

9. Tuberculosis Treatment: Plans were completed in January to provide courses of study for doctors of South Korea. At Masan Tuberculosis Sanitarium, arrangements were made to enroll four doctors at a time for an intensive course in X-ray management and diagnosis of tuberculosis. The first students came from the Provincial Hospital at Chongju and the Women's Medical College Hospital in Seoul. Since refresher courses for laboratory technicians in all provincial hospitals are urgently needed, a class is being prepared at the clinical and vaccine laboratories in Seoul. The laboratory class will serve until postgraduate courses for technicians can be started in the medical schools.

10. Drug Manual Translated: A Materia Medica containing the more important and newer American drugs is being prepared and translated and will be distributed to all regular doctors through medical associations.

11. Hospitals in Cholla-pukto: The provincial hospital at Chunju, Cholla-pukto, was reported in fair shape after an official inspection. It was receiving inpatients in spite of the lack of coal for heating. The Presbyterian hospital in Cholla-pukto became the second mission hospital to be reopened, the first being at Kaesong, in Kyonggi-do.

12. City Hospital in Pusan: The city hospital in Pusan was visited by department officials in January. While there was some improvement, the building was badly in need of repairs and there was no coal for heating. The new superintendent complained of the existing system whereby all income from the hospital must be turned over to the city treasury and only about one-half is returned for the most needy current expenses and urgent repairs. If the new plan allowing hospitals independent use of their income is adopted, this situation will be improved.

13. Treatment of Lepers: An inspection of the leprosarium in Pusan showed considerable improvement over the last six months. A newly-erected building for 70 women was clean, warm and comfortable. Material was being collected to convert a warehouse into a dormitory for 40 non-infected children of lepers. The work will begin as soon as weather permits. The provincial Department of Public Health and

Welfare provided a temporary home for some 50 lepers who had camped under a bridge leading to the island leprosarium. One village of 20 houses -- fifth of its kind in South Korea -- has been established for lepers in Kyongsang-namdo, and systematic treatment is being provided. The Department of Public Health and Welfare is working with the governors of the provinces of South Korea to establish other villages in suitable isolated places this summer.

14. The Department of Public Health and Welfare has received considerable heavy hospital equipment declared surplus by the U.S. Army or imported from the United States. Allotment of seven large laundry trailers, 20 seven-cubic foot refrigerators, three 220-cubic foot reefers, 12 field electric generators, 11 field X-ray machines and a number of microscopes was made during January.

NURSING AFFAIRS

15. The Department of Public Health and Welfare arranged with the Mission Board for a Canadian-trained missionary nurse to spend part of her time with the Office of Nursing Affairs. Under her guidance steady progress has been made in the preparation of textbooks.

16. Notices have been sent to the provinces that the next qualifying examination for nurses and midwives will be held in May 1948. Applications will be received by the Office of Nursing Affairs until the end of March. Those who successfully pass this examination will be licensed by the Committee on Nursing Affairs.

17. At the regular meeting of the Committee on Nursing Affairs held 26 January 1948, the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing was accredited. As a result, students now enrolled in this institution will be excused from taking qualifying examinations and will be licensed through the presentation of their diplomas.

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

18. Official veterinary meat inspection service was withdrawn from the East Gate and Yong Dong Po slaughterhouses in Seoul on 23 January 1948. This action followed several attempts on the part of veterinary officials to obtain sanitary improvements. Withdrawal of the service in effect closed both abattoirs, because slaughter cannot be performed legally without official inspection. At the end of January, work toward the provision of adequate and sanitary facilities at the East Gate abattoir was in progress. Although slaughtering operations continue in six slaughterhouses located in Kyonggi-do, it is imperative that the Seoul establishments resume operations as quickly as possible in order to forestall blackmarket slaughtering.

19. The large fish market building near Seoul Station was returned to its original use on 26 January. The building had been used for storage of U.S. Army quartermaster supplies. This action was recommended by the Veterinary Affairs officials, and will result in greatly improved sanitary facilities for the wholesale seafood center.

PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS

20. Pharmacists Examination: Members of the Pharmaceutical System Committee, Pharmaceutical Affairs Bureau, met and formulated plans for the pharmacists examination, to be held 25 March to 1 April 1948. The examination is for those who do not possess a degree in pharmacy, but do have practical experience, or are self-taught. Successful examinees will be qualified to apply for registration as

pharmacists. The examination will be conducted by the National Pharmacy Board, with the cooperation of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Bureau. The scientific portion of the examination will be held at Seoul Pharmaceutical College, and the practical application portion at the National Chemical Laboratory.

21. Gauze, Bandages, etc.: Although plant capacity exists which could process over 100 bales of cotton thread into gauze monthly, there was not sufficient raw cotton and cotton thread available in January to utilize that capacity. Only two bales of cotton thread were available. Processed into gauze, these would provide only 13,000 yards of 12-inch gauze. Sanitary cotton products, such as gauze and bandages, were not included in the Civilian Supply Program in any appreciable quantities because Korean facilities exist for their manufacture.

22. Coal to Plants Manufacturing Medical Supplies: During January, 400 tons of coal were allocated to the Department of Public Health and Welfare for reallocation to plants manufacturing medical supplies. Of this, 100 tons were distributed to plants manufacturing dextrose, 90 tons to plants manufacturing sterile solutions for injection, 120 tons to plants manufacturing sterile cotton and gauze, 70 tons to plants manufacturing ointments and 20 tons to other similar industries.

23. In January, two additional United States X-ray machines were received and distributed to hospitals after being thoroughly checked for serviceability by the Korea X-ray Company. By the end of January, the following institutions had been equipped with American X-ray machines: Seoul Capitol Dispensary; St. Mary's Hospital; Seoul University Hospital; Yongdong Salvation Army Hospital; Chungju Provincial Hospital; Taegu Medical College Hospital; Namsung Hospital; and Sungmoo Hospital. In most instances, portable field generators were furnished along with the X-ray machines.

24. Korean officials of the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Affairs, Department of Public Health and Welfare, have compiled a booklet covering all regulations, directives and letters of instruction on the handling of narcotics, in an effort to achieve more adequate dissemination of this information throughout the provinces. It will sell for approximately 30 won and will be required reading for all authorized narcotic handlers.

NARCOTICS SECTION

25. There were eight narcotics raids in South Korea during January. Twelve persons were arrested, 11 prosecuted successfully, and one released because of lack of evidence. The raids included confiscation of all drugs. The largest amounts of drugs confiscated were 7,370.4 grams of raw opium, 140.5 grams of codeine and 2,967 one-cc. ampules of morphine preparations.

26. Narcotics investigations in South Korean provinces are handled by 52 narcotics investigators and 476 officials in gun (county) government offices. These 476 officials are given the task of handling narcotics investigations. They inspect narcotics stocks of druggists and practitioners, make preliminary investigations and assist provincial and national investigators in all cases.

27. A series of conferences was held in January with the Department of Justice and XXIV Corps Provost Marshal to establish closer liaison between their departments and the Narcotics Section of the Department of Public Health and Welfare. Reports relative to narcotic cases in the future will be furnished to the Narcotics Section by the Provost Marshal.

28. In January the Narcotics Advisor met with the Seoul City Medical Association to discuss narcotics regulations. A misunderstanding by members of the medical profession as to what constituted exempt narcotics necessitated full explanation of the regulations covering this matter. The doctors were advised that narcotics addicts could be treated by the slow withdrawal method only after the physician received written permission from the Director of the Department of Public Health and Welfare, and that no ambulatory or out-patients could be treated by that method.

29. A thorough investigation showed that wholesale and retail dealers in narcotics were receiving too small a profit on their sales for the amount of work and expense attached. They must keep complete records of narcotics sales and have adequate storage for their narcotics. In many cases, this has necessitated hiring additional help, and many of the dealers have had to purchase strong steel safes. As a result of the investigation, a revised narcotics price list is being made by the Narcotics Section, giving dealers a 40 per cent mark-up.

30. The price of raw opium increased considerably. The price for 37 grams in January was 3,000 won as compared with 1,200 won for the same amount in December 1947.

31. Investigation into safekeeping of narcotics drugs in Taegu and Pusan indicated that wholesale dealers, by keeping narcotics in a strong steel safe, with only one man in possession of each combination, had adequate protection.

32. The total number of narcotics licenses issued as of 31 January was 2,958. Of this number, five licenses were issued to manufacturers, two to repackagers, 36 to wholesalers, 162 to pharmacists, 2,752 to doctors and one was issued for scientific research. Table 4 contains a breakdown of the quantity of various narcotics distributed throughout South Korea in January.

Table 4. Distribution of Narcotics,
South Korea, January 1948

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Cocaine hydrochloride	7.09 gms	700 bottles
Cocaine tablets	0.1 gms a/	612 bottles
Codein sulfate	28.350 gms	59 bottles
Ethylmorphin	3.54 gms	500 bottles
Morphin sulfate	0.016 gms b/	20,000 tubes
Opium powder	5.0 gms	1,000 bottles
Opium camphorated tinct.	1.0 pt	500 bottles
Codein sulfate tablet	0.5 gm c/	2,000 bottles
a/ 0.1 gram = 100 tablets.		
b/ 0.016 gram = 20 tablets.		
c/ 0.5 gram = 500 tablets.		

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare

LABORATORIES

33. Production of biologicals in January was negligible, due chiefly to shortage of power. Laboratories must have a 24-hour supply of electricity, because any stoppage means possible loss of bacteria growth.

34. A fire at the Institute for Veterinary Research Laboratory at Anyang, Kyonggi-do, on the morning of 10 January destroyed a large egg incubator. However, it had little effect on the production of biologicals.

35. During the first week in January, a visit was made to the 34th General Hospital Laboratory, Seoul, by the Korean personnel of the Vaccine and Chemistry Laboratories in Seoul. Their purpose was to observe the laboratory equipment and technique.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

36. The Department of Public Health and Welfare received notification that the 1,200 metric tons of powdered skim milk expected in September 1947 had arrived in Pusan during January. The General Relief Bureau will utilize the original basic welfare plan of October 1947 in order to maintain proper health standards primarily among the youngest age groups in the population (see October 1947 SKIG ACTIVITIES).

37. Institute Held at National Childrens' Home: A three-day institute held at the National Childrens' Home from 15 to 17 January was attended by 35 leaders of institutional work in the Seoul area. The institute, under the leadership of a Professor of Psychology of Seoul National University, had as its purpose a greater understanding of children and their individual needs. The leaders stayed at the orphanage to observe the methods of care. Advanced psychology students gave psychological tests to all of the children in the institutions.

38. Distribution of Textbooks: Distribution was made by the Bureau of Welfare Institutions and Agencies during January of a translation of Dr. Symonds' "Mental Hygiene for Children." All superintendents of childrens' institutions and all provincial welfare departments in South Korea received copies.

39. Needy Childrens' Home Developed: Outstanding work has been done by the Welfare Bureau of Chungchong-namdo in developing institutions for needy children in that province. Following Father Edward J. Flanagan's visit to Korea, the Department of Public Health and Welfare stressed the need to care for vagrant children, particularly in railroad centers where they concentrate to beg from travelers. In an effort to meet this need, Chungchong-namdo welfare officials met with leading officials in the various cities of the province, and developed "Boystowns" in Taejon, Chonan, Choch'wŏn and Kang Gyong. Especially outstanding is the "Boystown" in Taejon, located in a former Buddhist temple. An additional dormitory, with baths and toilets was erected. A large piece of agricultural land was donated to the childrens' home. The institution, which now cares for 61 children, plans to build an additional dormitory in the spring so the number can be doubled. In Chungchong-namdo, plans have been made to develop a public institution for vagrant children near Chonan. The property has been secured and UNRRA funds requested for necessary repairs to the buildings.

40. Among the serious problems of child welfare institutions in South Korea have been the vocational training and job placement programs for older children. The Kyong Nam Po Yuk Won orphanage in Pusan has made a significant stride in this direction by opening several trade shops for a large group of older children. These include a carpentry shop, dye shop, sewing and tailor shop, barber shop and photography shop. Proceeds from these industries will go to make up the deficit in the institution's budget. The work of this orphanage will be publicized among other institutions in an effort to develop other vocational training projects.

41. National Blind and Deaf School: On 6 January, the National Blind and Deaf School, located in Seoul, was transferred from the Department of Public Health and Welfare to the Department of Education. This followed development of a regular

eight-year primary school course which met the standards of public primary schools, and the recent addition of a middle school course of study at the school. This middle school course is the first made available in South Korea for blind and deaf children. The National Blind and Deaf School, established in Seoul in 1912, has improved considerably since the liberation, with the number of children under its care increased from 96 to 317.

42. Sajik Park Receiving Home: The Sajik Park Receiving Home for vagrant and needy children opened in Seoul on 10 January. The institution, operated by the Seoul Welfare Department under the supervision of the National Department of Public Health and Welfare, fills a vital need. It will be a receiving home to which all children requiring institutional care can be referred. Following the 9 December conference of Korean and American officials of the Seoul Welfare and National Public Health and Welfare Departments, the ground at Sajik Park was cleared of squatters and work on rehabilitation of the building was begun. Funds totaling 2,500,000 won were procured from the UNRRA fund. According to the plan for the home, collection of vagrant children will be accomplished through the cooperation of Welfare, Police and Justice authorities. The home will not provide permanent quarters, but will care for the children until they can be segregated and assigned to appropriate agencies. The Department of Justice will take those with delinquent behavior records. Others will be assigned to orphanages and other institutions under the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

43. The children, upon arrival at the Receiving Home, are bathed, fed, furnished new warm clothes, given medical examinations and inoculations, and interviewed. Clothing was received from the Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia and the National Welfare Bureau. By the end of January, 180 children had been picked up off the streets of Seoul and placed in the Receiving Home.

44. The Sajik Park Receiving Home is a large, two-story building, with accommodations for 200 children. The building contains a large messhall and auditorium, a kitchen, four large and a number of small sleeping rooms, three offices, and living quarters for the director. The staff consists of a director, one full-time doctor and one full-time nurse, four teachers, four office assistants, a cook and a laundrywoman. There is no janitor, for the children take care of the work to be done about the Home. A psychiatrist from Seoul National University donates his time, giving tests to each new child upon his entrance to the Home.

45. On 19 January, conferences were held with welfare camp chiefs from the nine National Refugee Camps in an effort to provide funds necessary to meet the needs of refugees from North Korea during the remainder of the winter season.

WOMEN'S BUREAU

46. Several conferences were held in January with legislators, newspaper representatives and American advisors on the forthcoming abolition of legalized prostitution and definite plans of action to be taken. In October and November 1947, the Director of the Women's Bureau visited all southern provinces, with the exception of Kangwon-do and Cheju-do, to set up committees. These committees were headed by the governors and made up of representative members of the community, who were delegated responsibility for this problem. The plan for Seoul included health treatment by the National Venereal Disease Clinic, welfare needs to be met by the Welfare Department of the City of Seoul, and processing by the women police. Efforts will be directed toward rehabilitation. The greatest need is a place to keep these women if they are forced to leave their present residences. However, this is part of a larger existing housing problem, the solution of which will be

part of the success or failure of Public Act No. 7, Abolishment of the Public Prostitution Law. There are no low-cost homes for working girls, no homes for transients and no accommodations for girl students. If buildings become available, several private organizations will be interested in the operation of such homes.

47. Travelers' Aid Work: Travelers' aid work in Seoul was given a successful start in January following a conference called by the Women's Bureau on 6 January. The session brought together City of Seoul officials, police women leaders, Korean Red Cross, Transportation, Salvation Army, and National Public Health and Welfare officials. Tentative plans established at the conference included: (1) Assignment by the Women's Section of a worker temporarily to supervise the program; (2) Emergency medical cases are to be referred to the City Hospital, where an emergency ward has been established; (3) At the Railroad Hotel near the station, space is to be provided for temporary emergency shelter for women and children, and for transient men; (4) Old people are to be referred to old people's homes; (5) A low-cost restaurant to feed the needy; (6) Children are to be referred to the Sajik Park Receiving Home; (7) Police women are to assist with referral and information; (8) The Salvation Army is to hold training discussions with the workers once or twice a week; (9) Transportation authorities are to supply space, light and heat; and (10) Responsibility for the Travelers' Aid in Seoul is to be carried by the Seoul Women's Section.

48. Work was started at the Seoul Railroad Station on 26 January, with services, information and emergency care made available as planned. The worker was given space in the assistant stationmaster's office. During the first week, 41 cases were handled, 26 of them beggar children turned over to the Sajik Park Receiving Home.

WELFARE SUPPLY

49. In January, a shipment of 4,000 mattresses was sent to Pusan, where 1,500 of these were allocated to the National Leprosarium at Sorokto and the remainder to health and welfare institutions in Kyongsang-namdo.